

from the office of the City Manager

College Station ★ Texas



A Monthly Report to the Honorable Mayor and City Council May 2005

April in Review...

As summer approaches, the City of College Station was proud to promote Bike to Work Day April 29 as bicycles became the transportation of choice and more than 500 Freebirds burritos were given away to those who arrived on two wheels. Special thanks to **Ken Fogle**, Transportation Planner, for his efforts in this annual event.

★ Retiring **Fire Chief David Giordano** was honored at an April 29 reception in Council Chambers as various presentations touched on his many contributions to the city. He spent his final week on the job introducing our new chief, **R. B. Alley** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to his new assignment. We look forward to working with R. B. and know he will welcome the arrival of his family in early June.



★ City elections brought new faces to the City Council, with a special meeting set May 18 to swear in new members **Ben White**, Place 1; **Ron Gay**, Place 3; and **Chris Scotti**, Place 5.

★ New this year to the City of College Station lineup of training opportunities is the **Leadership Institute** for our

upper management level employees. A pilot project last year with Management Team, it was well received and offered this year in addition to Supervisory Academy and Management Academy.

Fourteen employees are enrolled in the session, with **Terry Childers**, the City's facilitator, in charge of the four-day class. They will be featured in next month's

City Manager's Report.

★ Attendance at **Wolf Pen Creek** Amphitheater's events is up 26% over last year, with an 8% increase in number of events hosted and 6% increase at Starlight events when comparing

2005 to 2004 figures.

Until then, enjoy the pleasant weather and take a moment to appreciate the many historical sites in College Station during **Historical Preservation Month** in May.

Tom Brymer
City Manager





New E-Gov Additions Increase Access To City Information and Services

Internet access has shed a different light on financial services offered by the City of College Station, with new pathways unveiled in late April.

Programs are now linked to the internet, one offering a direct link from the city's website, while the other allows court fines to be paid online.

A companion brochure also was developed by the Department of Finance and Strategic Planning. It reflects a breakout of revenues and expenditures, with graphical illustrations of how funds are allocated.

Paying Court Fines Online

■Need to pay a court fine, but just don't have the time or the inclination to wait in line? College Station Municipal Court is now accepting payments for most citations online (*exceptions: minors or tickets in warrant status*).

Traffic and parking tickets can be paid securely online at www.cstx.gov or by telephone at 764-3683.

"We are very excited to be able to offer this new payment opportunity," said **Carol Arnold**, Court Administrator. "It has been in the works for a while, and brings our service to the level offered in much larger cities." She added that online service should shorten the wait at the Court as more people take advantage of the convenient system.

In addition to those options, payment can be made at the City's Municipal Court Building, 300 Krenek Tap Road; Utility Customer Service counter or drive-through window at 310 Krenek Tap Road; or in the Accounting Office in City Hall, 1101 Texas Avenue. Fines are payable using MasterCard, Visa or Discover cards.

Municipal Court is open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Other city locations are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Financial facts available on website

■Strategic priorities, budgeted revenues and expenditures, utility comparisons and tax rate information may be accessed through the Financial & Budget Facts button on the homepage (www.cstx.gov).

"This is valuable and will be a helpful tool for not only local citizens, but those doing research on the economic development process or relocation to this area," said **Glenn Brown**, Assistant City Manager.





Inside College Station...

Wolf Pen Creek Upper Trails On Track for September Completion

Outdoor enthusiasts have much to look forward to as the Upper Trails project in the Wolf Pen Creek District continues toward a September 2005 completion date for the pedestrian trail system and bridges between Texas Avenue and Dartmouth.

Project Manager **Laura Harris** notes the scope of the improvements include construction of pedestrian trails (.86 miles), pedestrian low water crossings, a 60-space parking lot, landscaping, irrigation systems, electrical and lighting systems, emergency telephone systems, entry structures, benches, water fountains, picnic tables and bike racks in the section of Wolf Pen Creek between George Bush Drive and Dartmouth. Drainage improvements between George Bush Drive and the State Highway 6 Bypass also are part of the package.

The construction contract is \$2,052,687.25 (*funded \$1,397,786.25 out of Wolf Pen Creek TIF Funds and \$654,901 out of Drainage Utility Funds*). The construction contract was awarded in August 2004 to JaCody, Inc. Engineers for the project are McClure & Browne.

The Upper Trails project is similar in scope to the Lower Trails project (.62 miles) that was completed in October, 2003.





City briefs...

★ College Station's **Steve Beachy**, Director of Parks and Recreation for more than 26 years, was named the community recipient of the 2005 Texas A & M University International Excellence Award.

His selection for this honor reflected on the commitment of the City of College Station to help Texas A & M University achieve its Vision 2020 goal to create a more international community. Mr. Beachy has been instrumental in facilitating a welcoming environment for international faculty, students and scholars.

Presentation was made April 12 in the Stark Gallery during a ceremony and reception honoring contributions of faculty, staff and community leaders. **Dr. David Prior**, executive vice president and provost, Texas A & M University, presented a beautifully framed certificate acknowledging Mr. Beachy's selection. Joining them (*in photo at right*) was College Station City Manager **Tom Brymer**.



★ College Station's Police Department was recently notified they had been selected as the recipient of the Walmart Foundation Safe Neighborhood Heroes Grant. **Chief Michael Clancey** accepted the \$2000 donation from College Station Walmart store manager **Mark Gottsponer** as part of the weekly "associates" meeting.

The Safe Neighborhood Heroes grant was established after events of September 11, 2001 when all were reminded of the selfless bravery and commitment made by police, fire, rescue and EMS to communities nationwide. Mr. Gottsponer said the grant is a way that Walmart associates honor and give back to those who make our cities and towns better and safer places to live. Plans for the funds include purchasing child bicycle safety helmets which will be given to needy children.

★ We have received the **March sales tax receipts** (*February sales*) from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,050,620.94 for the month of March, representing a 3.7% **increase** in revenue from the same month a year earlier. Sales tax collections for FY 05 YTD are 3.13% **above** FY 04 collections, or \$7,800,891.62.

Overall, tax revenues continue to grow at the projected 3% trend. We will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount. Monthly and year-to-date sales tax collections are summarized as follows:

March FY05 Receipts

\$1,050,620.94
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

March FY04 Receipts

\$1,013,181.26
\$37,439.68
3.7%

FY05 YTD Receipts

\$7,800,891.62
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

FY04 YTD Receipts

\$7,563,832.67
\$237,058.95
3.13%



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

1101 Texas Avenue
College Station, TX 77842
www.cstx.gov

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Monday, May 9

CS Police Department Awards,
Hilton, 6:30 pm

Monday, May 9- Thursday, May 12

Legislative Trip to Washington,
D.C.

Tuesday, May 10

B/CS CVB Hospitality Celebra-
tion, Pebble Creek CC, 11:30 am -
1:30 pm

Thursday, May 12

City Council Workshop, 2 pm;
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Monday, May 16

Intergovernmental Meeting,
TAMU, Noon

Tuesday, May 17

- Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 am
- Transportation Committee, 4:30
pm

Wednesday, May 18

CS Police Department Memorial
Service, Noon
Research Valley Partnership, 3 pm
Special Council Meeting, Canvass
Election Results, 3 pm

Thursday, May 26

City Council Workshop, 3 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day Program, Veterans
Park & Athletic Complex, 6:30 pm

Shining moments...



The City of College Station's 2005 Citizen Recognition dinner proved a big success as KBTX's Crystal Galny and Dr. Ben Welch delighted more than 100 in attendance to receive certificates in appreciation of their individual commitments to the City of College Station. For the first time, the Mayor's Award was presented for ongoing efforts to a commitment to excellence. The 2005 winner was the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University.
(pictured above with Mayor Ron Silvia)



Crystal Galny



Ben Welch



Mayor Silvia, John Nichols
and Councilman John Happ

ADMISSION FREE TO ALL EVENTS

College Station Utilities and the College Station Parks and Recreation Department present the

Starlight

MUSIC SERIES

Bring your own coolers & picnic baskets. No pets, please! BYOB. No glass containers. Soft drinks and snacks available for purchase.

GATES OPEN 6:30 PM
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (979) 764-3486 OR VISIT www.cstx.gov

APRIL 9: Asleep at the Wheel with Bonnie Bishop, Jim Moody & Yogi Baird
APRIL 16: Brave Combo with Midnight Express
APRIL 24: Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra
APRIL 30: Ray Price
MAY 7: Cowboy Mouth with Reckless Kelly
MAY 14: Marcia Ball with Karan Chavis
MAY 21: Bobby Bare with Diamondback Texas
MAY 28: Ro-Tel and The Hot Tomatoes
JUNE 4: Doyle Bramhall with Blue Valentine
JUNE 11: HELLS BELLS
JUNE 25: Buckwheat Zydeco

WOLF PEN CREEK AMPHITHEATER

103.9 The Valley **101.9 The Valley** **KQRA 98.3**

College Station Utilities
 Reliable. Affordable. Community Owned.



Shining moments...



Landfill employees Howard Stough, operations supervisor, and Frank Vinson, heavy equipment mechanic, were recognized at the April 26 Council meeting with a SOAR (Standing Ovation And Recognition) award. The Gold level cash reward was presented to each in appreciation of approximately \$74,000 in savings for the City, thanks to their expertise, hard work and knowledge in repairing a major piece of equipment at savings in time and money for the City. Pictured above are (from left) City Manager Tom Brymer, Councilmembers James Massey, John Happ and Nancy Berry, Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Maloney, Mayor Ron Silvia, Councilmembers Susan Lancaster and Robert Wareing, Howard Stough, Frank Vinson, Samantha Best, Landfill Manager.



Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in April for Terrace Pines Apartment Homes, 100 units exclusively for residents age 55 or older. Eighty units are affordable units reserved for residents with incomes 60% or less of the area median income. Completion is on schedule for October, but initial occupancy may be as soon as August. Currently more than 70 residents are on the waiting list. Pictured above (from left) are developer Mike Lankford; a representative of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Marc Caldwell, development team; Tom Brymer, College Station City Manager; Randy Brumley, Community Development Administrator; Debbie Eller, Project Manager; Art Roach, Community Revitalization Coordinator; and Kim Foutz, Economic Development Director.